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# **ILLINOIS CAMPAIGN FINANCING ACT**

ILLINOIS GOVERNMENT

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## **Are you required to FILE?**

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Campaign Disclosure Division

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## **A GUIDE:**

### **WHO IS REQUIRED TO FILE?**

This brochure has been designed to help you easily determine if there is a need for you to comply with the Illinois Campaign Financing Act.

In September of 1974, the Illinois General Assembly passed Public Act 78-1183, commonly referred to as the Campaign Financing Act. This act is designed to require candidates and political committees who receive or expend over \$1,000 to report these campaign contributions and expenditures.

The responsibility of administering this law lies with the State Board of Elections, or the appropriate county clerk.

### **I. WHO IS A CANDIDATE?**

“Candidate” means any person who seeks nomination for election, election or retention in public office, whether or not such person is elected. A person seeks nomination for election, election or retention if he:

- (1) takes the action necessary under the laws of this state to attempt to qualify for nomination for election, election or retention to public office, or;
- (2) receives contributions or makes expenditures, or gives consent for any person to receive contributions or make expenditures with a view to bringing about his nomination for election, election or retention to public office.

(Sec. 9-1.3-Illinois Campaign Financing Act)

## II. WHAT IS A COMMITTEE?

For reporting purposes, the Act divides political committees into three major categories.

- (1) LOCAL Political Committee means:
- (a) a candidate or committee which accepts or expends more than \$1,000 in a 12-month period in support of, or in opposition to, a candidate or candidates for public office who are required to file their Statements of Economic Interest with the local county clerk; or
  - (b) a committee which accepts or expends more than \$1,000 in support of, or in opposition to, a question of public policy that is to be submitted to the electors of an area encompassing no more than one county;
  - (c) county central committees are local political committees regardless of the amount of money accepted or expended.

(Sec. 9-1.7-Illinois Campaign Financing Act)

- (2) STATE Political Committee means:
- (a) a candidate or committee which accepts or expends more than \$1,000 in a 12-month period in support of, or in opposition to, a candidate or candidates for public office who are required to file their Statements of Economic Interest with the Secretary of State, or;
  - (b) a committee which accepts or expends more than \$3,000 in support of, or opposition to, a question of public policy that is to be submitted to the electors of an area encompassing more than one county;



(c) state central committees are state political committees regardless of the amount of money accepted or expended.

(Sec. 9-1.8-Illinois Campaign Financing Act)

(3) STATE and LOCAL Political Committee means:

(a) a committee which accepts or expends more than \$1,000 in a 12-month period in support of, or in opposition to, a candidate or candidates for state and local public office who file their Statements of Economic Interest with the Secretary of State or the local county clerk, respectively;

(b) all state and county central committees that act as both a state and local political committee shall file the original with the State Board of Elections and a copy with the local county clerk.

### **III. WHO IS NOT REQUIRED TO FILE?**

(1) A candidate for federal office;

(2) A candidate for a party office, such as precinct committeeman, ward or township committeeman, delegate to the national nominating convention, Democrat and Republican county chairmen, state central committeemen, or any other candidate who is not required to file a Statement of Economic Interest with the local county clerk or the Secretary of State's office;

(3) A candidate or a committee who will not accept or expend more than \$1,000 in a 12-month period on behalf of, or in opposition to, a candidate or candidates;

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- (4) A committee which does not accept or expend more than \$1,000 in support of, or in opposition to, a question of public policy that is submitted to the electors of an area encompassing no more than one county, or \$3,000 in the case of a question of public policy to be submitted to the electors of an area encompassing more than one county.

(See Sections 9-1.4 and 9-1.5 of the Illinois Campaign Financing Act.)

For additional guidance, you should refer to the Rules and Regulations and A Guide to Campaign Disclosure issued by the State Board of Elections.

In addition, you are encouraged to seek assistance from the State Board of Elections, when necessary, by letter or telephone.

### **KEEP IN MIND**

Even though you may not expect to accept or expend more than \$1,000 in a 12-month period, the State Board of Elections recommends that you keep accurate and detailed records of all contributions received and all expenditures made.

**IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS** must be counted toward the \$1,000 threshold.

### **THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

The State Board of Elections has the responsibility to administer the Campaign Financing Act. The Board seeks good faith and voluntary compliance with the state campaign finance law. The State Board of Elections and the staff will try to provide any assistance necessary to help you to comply with the law.



## GOALS

A primary goal of the State Board of Elections is to help bring about greater understanding of and participation in the electoral process. The Board hopes to obtain full voluntary compliance with the Campaign Financing Act by those seeking election to public office and by political committees and other persons supporting those candidates. The Board will, however, vigorously exercise its enforcement authority wherever there appears to be an apparent violation of the law.

For more information, complete guidelines, and rules and regulations as set forth by the Board, write or call the:

Illinois State Board of Elections  
1020 South Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217/782-4141 (TDD) 217/782-1518

or

State of Illinois Center  
Suite 14-100  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
312/814-6440 (TDD) 312/814-6431

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